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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for a space random data number generator, the method comprising the steps of:

~~(a) means for detecting signals from astronomical events;~~

~~(b) means for calculating random data from said signals; and~~

~~(c) means for storing said random data.~~

placing a structure in space comprising:

(a) means to detect an astronomical event;

(b) means to perform logic operations on astronomical event data; and

(c) means to communication results of logic operations on astronomical data.

2. (cancelled).

3. (currently modified) The random number generator of claim 2 1, in which the astronomical events comprise cosmic ray events, solar wind events or solar flare events.

4. (cancelled)

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5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The random number generator of claim 5, in which the mathematical rules comprise computations of standard deviations of pulses representing data from the signals

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) A method for generating random data, comprising: (a) receiving signals from space phenomena at an existing Earth-based collection facility; (b) transmitting the signals to a base station; (c) storing the signals; (d) applying procedures to the signals to generate random data

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numbers; and (e) transmitting the random ~~data~~ numbers to one or more end users

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (new) A random number generating device to be placed in earth orbit or beyond, the random number generating device comprising:

an astronomical event detector;

logic and circuitry coupled to the astronomical event detector, the logic and circuitry performing operations on the astronomical event data, said operations including determining if a set or sub-set of the data detected is appropriate for generating random numbers and if the data is appropriate applying pre-determined mathematical rules to the rules to produce random numbers, and;

a communication device coupled to the logic and circuitry.

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19. (new) The random number generating device of claim 18 further comprising:

a device to orient the astronomical event detector to a particular point in space.

20. (new) The random number generating device of claim 18 wherein the astronomical event detector is a solar wind particle detector.

21. (new) The random number generating device of claim 18 wherein the astronomical event detector is an alpha ray detector.

22. (new) The random number generating device of claim 18 wherein the astronomical event detector is a gamma ray detector.

23. (new) The random number generating device of claim 18 wherein the logic and circuitry additionally encrypts the random numbers produced.

24. (new) The random number generating device of claim 18 wherein the astronomical event detector is comprised of discrete detection elements or areas.

25. (new) The random number generating device of claim 24 wherein

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the logic and circuitry capture data from the astronomical event detector for a predetermined period of time, the logic and circuitry then performing operations on the captured astronomical event data, said operations determining if data detected on the discrete detection elements are statistically significant and the data is statistically significant capturing a new set of data from the astronomical event detector and determines which of the discrete elements has recorded more events.

26. (new) The random number generating device of claim 25 wherein the logic and circuitry further determine which of a plurality of discrete elements has recorded more events.